

FILED

Date _____

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Clerk _____

Comm. Amdt. _____

AMENDMENT NO. _____

Signature of Sponsor

AMEND Senate Bill No. 422*

House Bill No. 1303

by deleting all language after the enacting clause and by substituting instead the following:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 71, Chapter 5, Part 1, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

Section _____. (a) The TennCare Bureau shall establish a special fund for Primary Care Assistance for which three million dollars (\$3,000,000) shall be earmarked annually to such fund. The fund shall be used to make payments to any primary care provider who has a caseload consisting of at least fifty percent (50%) TennCare patients and uninsured patients and who serves patients on a sliding fee schedule regardless of ability to pay.

For the purposes of this section "primary care provider" means a:

(1) Primary care physician; that is, a

(A) Physician who has a practice of medicine limited to general practice; or

(B) Physician who is board certified or board eligible in any of the following: internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics/gynecology, or family practice;

(2) Advanced practice nurse, nurse practitioner, and physician assistant engaged in the delivery of primary care;

(3) Community health clinic; or

(4) Federally qualified health center.

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(b) Total payments from the Primary Care Assistance Fund shall not exceed three million dollars (\$3,000,000). If the total of the payments calculated exceeds three million dollars (\$3,000,000), an allocation shall be made prioritizing payments to primary care providers who serve federally designated health profession shortage areas.

Payment shall be made on a semi-annual basis each fiscal year.

(c) The department of health shall promulgate rules in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5, to implement the provisions of this section.

SECTION 2. The provisions of this act shall be subject to a specific appropriation included in the general appropriations act.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

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